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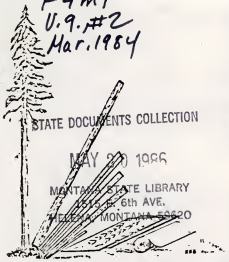

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MONTANA Forest Products Marketing Bulletin

Department of State Lands, Division of Forestry
2705 Spurgin Road Missoula, Montana 59801
Ph:(406)728-4300

GARY G. BROWN, STATE FORESTER

VOL. 9, NO. 2 MARCH - 1984

This bulletin is mailed primarily to individuals engaged in the Forest Products Industry in Montana. In addition, it is mailed to county agents, lumber brokers, wholesalers, dealers of sawmill and logging equipment, interested technicians, educators and Montana Tree Farmers, as well as the Departments of Forestry in all states.

The purpose of this newsletter is to communicate information regarding the properties and uses of wood products, promote efficiency in the utilization of wood from the stump to the end product, and to serve as a communication link between the members of the forest products industry.

All persons receiving this newsletter are asked to examine their mailing address and advise this office of any corrections needed for proper mailing.

ECONOMIC REPORT

Boosted by an improved national economy and an upswing in housing starts, Montana's wood products industry closed out 1983 in better shape than the industry has seen in several years, according to a University of Montana research office.

The Bureau of Business and Economic Research recently released fourth quarter information on the industry, showing continued high levels of employment, wages, and production. The figures were somewhat lower than for the previous three months, but the year's total reflected dramatic improvement for the industry when compared to 1982.

Information on the State's wood products industry is gathered quarterly by the Bureau in cooperation with the Montana Wood Products Association.

The increased number of housing starts, up 60 percent from 1982 levels, and an improved national economy in general, led to much higher production levels and employment at Montana's wood products plants.

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Almost all types of plants within the industry--from sawmills to utility pole plants--operated at or above normal levels in 1983. And when compared to figures for 1982, there were drastic increases.

Lumber production was 1.2 billion board feet, up 42 percent from 1982. Plywood production increased 17 percent. And production wages totaled $107.7 million 1983, $27 million higher than in 1982. These wage figures refer only to production workers at mill sites and do not include the several thousand workers in logging, trucking, and other related areas.

The Bureau noted that fourth quarter information showed a slight decline in the number of plants operating at normal levels compared to the previous quarter.

An average of 29 out of 35 plants surveyed operated at normal levels during the three months of the fourth quarter 1983. That compares to an average of 33 out of 35 plants reporting normal operations during 3 quarter, 1983.

JAPANESE CONSIDER MONTANA FOR LUMBER EXPORTING

Recently a representative from one of Japan's lumber trading companies visited central and western Montana at the invitation of the Headwaters Resource Conservation and Development Committee. Their objective was to:

1. Investigate the possibilities of exporting some of Montana's lumber products to Japan.
2. Determine whether Montana sawmills could produce products for exports. If they could, would they consider doing so, and
3. What timber species and grades were desired by the Japanese.

Within the last year, manufactured housing or pre-fabricated housing have become popular in Japan. According to the lumber buyer, they are looking for wood with small, tight knots. The hem-fir, that has typically been purchased from Pacific rim areas, has large knots and is not suitable for many applications in building manufactured houses. The species that the Japanese find most desirable in Montana are lodgepole pine, Englemann spruce and alpine fir.

In the past, freight rates have prohibited Montana from exporting wood products overseas; however, recently, overseas freight rates have decreased sharply due to the increased number of oversea carriers and cargo capacities. According to Mr. Richard Moinihan, Port of Butte's General Manager, they can ship a 40 foot container that holds 25,000 to 28,000 board feet of lumber to international ports in Japan at the same cost or cheaper than shipping from Butte to Chicago by current truck or rail rates.

We are excited about the possibilities of Montana entering the export market and we believe there is a very good chance that this could become a reality.

USFS REGION 1 HIRES FOREST PRODUCTS UTILIZATION SPECIALIST

Ken Kilborn has been named Forest Products Utilization Specialist for the U.S. Forest Service State and Private Cooperative Forestry Program. He has filled the position previously held by Mr. Lorin Hearst after his retirement in 1982. Ken is not new to the FPU program. He was originally employed by the Colorado State Forest Service as Forest Products Utilization Specialist (FPU) and later became Assistant State Forester.

Prior to arriving in Missoula, he was assigned as a FPU Specialist in Alaska. He comes to us with a strong background in export marketing, sawmilling, and timber harvesting.

While in Missoula, Ken's responsibilities will be to provide technical assistance in marketing and utilization to sawmills, loggers and other sectors of the Wood Products Industry in Montana, Idaho and North Dakota.

Ken is excited about the utilization and marketing opportunities in Montana and were looking forward to working with him.

HOW YOU CAN BENEFIT FROM THE SAWMILL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Improved Mill Profits

Profit is the reason sawmills convert logs into lumber, and for the most part, the level of profit a sawmill achieves depends on the efficiency of its log conversion process. A sawmill with a higher lumber recovery factor is capable of producing more lumber per log than a mill with a low lumber recovery factor. Or more simply stated, the more lumber a sawmill recovers from a log, the more money it stands to gain. With this in mind, it stands to reason your mill should strive to increase its efficiency in order to maximize profits.

Lumber Recovery Factor

The Montana Division of Forestry can help you achieve a greater lumber recovery factor through your participation in the Sawmill Improvement Program. At no cost, you can learn the efficiency of your mechanical equipment in the conversion of logs to lumber through the use of a computer program designed by the Forest Products Laboratory. By analyzing the cubic foot input/board foot output relationship, a true picture of the conversion efficiency can be obtained. The program analyzes the log volume entering the mill, the mill equipment itself, and the amount of lumber produced, current lumber recovery, and potential lumber recovery possible.

Residues

In addition, the program has the capabilitiy to calculate the volumetric amounts of rough green lumber, dry dressed lumber, planer shavings, sawdust, and chippable residue produced at the sawmill.

Comparative Analysis

When contemplating changes in mill equipment at your mill, the Division of Forestry can help you determine the changes in the amounts of lumber, planer shavings, sawdust, and chips recovered through a computer run comparative analysis. At last, decisions on changes in mill equipment (kerf sizes, planing allowance, lumber sizing, etc.) can be based on quantitative amounts of lumber and residues that will be produced at your mill.

Confidentiality

All information gathered and all results returned to the mill are confidential to the mill. All copies of the sawmill reports are returned to the mill. There is no connection between this study and timber sale appraisals. The program is

directed at helping sawmill owners recover more lumber from a given log input in a time of high stumpage prices and shrinking timber supply.

1984 CONSULTANT FORESTERS LISTING AVAILABLE

The 1984 listing of forestry consultants working in Montana will be available this month. This listing contains about 30 consultants who provide services to forest landowners and operators in various phases of forestry. If you would like a copy, write to Mark Lennon, Department of State Lands, Division of Forestry, 2705 Spurgin Road, Missoula, Montana 59801, or contact your local Department of State Lands Field Office.

INVENTORY REPORTS AVAILABLE

The Montana Department of State Lands, Forestry Division has announced the publication of two forest inventory reports. They are: Timber Resources of Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties (Working Circle 2) and Timber Resources of the Headwater Counties (Working Circle 3). Working Circle 3 is made of of Beaverhead, Broadwater, Deer Lodge, Granite, Jefferson, Lewis and Clark, Madison, Powell and Silver Bow Counties. The reports include the usual forest statistics, plus sections on silvicultural treatment opportunities and the grazable forest land resource. Copies of the reports area available from: Brian Long, Supervisor, Forest Inventory Section, 2705 Spurgin Road, Missoula, Montana 59801 or (406) 728-4300, ext. 2323.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

The following publications are available free of charge by writing the Publications Dept., Forest Products Laboratory, North Walnut St., P.O. Box 5130, Madison, WI 53705.

Long-Term Load Performance of Hardboard I-Beams Built-up I-beams with hardboard shear webs and laminated-veneer lumber flanges exhibited satisfactory performance when subjected to constant loads for up to 5 years in interior, protected exterior, and controlled cyclic humidity environments. Creep deflection was greatest for beams in the cyclic humidity environment and least for those in the interior environment. For beams loaded at the same stress level in a given environment, deflection was greater for beams made with web material having the lower shear stiffness. Except for 6-foot beams in the cyclic humidity environment, static tests on beams after long-term loading did not reveal any loss in strength or stiffness. To obtain a copy of this program, request General Technical Report FPL-441.

Stiffness and Strength of Uniformly Loaded Floors with In-grade Lumber The purposes of this study were to develop procedures for obtaining realistic estimates of the stiffness and strength at first joist rupture of floors constructed from material with variable mechanical properties and to use these procedures to develop definitive data on expected floor performance. To obtain a copy of this program, request General Technical Report FPL-440.

Payback as an Investment Criterion for Sawmill Improvement Projects Methods other than presented here should be used to assess projects for likely return on investment; but, payback is simple to calculate and can be used for calculations that will indicate the relative attractiveness of alternative improvement projects. This paper illustrates how payback ratios are calculated, how they

can be used to rank alternative improvement projects, and how to calculate the benefit value of improvement projects. To obtain a copy of this program, request General Technical Report FPL-34.

Dielectric Properties of Lumber Loads in a Dry Kiln The dielectric properties of wood were studied in a laboratory configuration that simulated typical lumber loads in a dry kiln. The transient effect of kiln conditions on the lumber stickers was found to influence dielectric properties more than had been recognized previously. Other details of the dielectric properties apparently depended on interaction of transverse moisture gradients with other variables in the kiln and in the electrical instruments. To obtain a copy of this program, request General Technical Report FPL-436.

Maximum Cutting Yields for 6/5 Ponderosa Pine Shop Lumber The moulding and millwork industries process nearly 1.3 billion board feet of Ponderosa Pine annually. Unfortunately, thousands of trees are harvested unnecessarily to compensate for inefficient processing. To help improve this situation, researchers at the FOrest Products Laboratory developed maximum cutting yields for 6/4 Shop lumber in grades No. 1 Shop, No. 2 Shop, and No. 3 Shop. Yields were developed by building a representative 6/4 Shop lumber data base and simulating sawing of the lumber by the computer program OPTYLD. Results may be used to compare cutting yields between 6/4 Shop grades, to guide grade selection, and to estimate possible improvements in processing decisions. Results also encourage more automation in lumber processing. To obtain a copy of this program, request General Technical Report FPL-437.

CROMAX: A Crosscut-First Computer Simulation Program to Determine Cutting Yield CROMAX simulates crosscut-first, then rip operations as commonly practices in furniture manufacture. This program calculates cutting yields from individual boards based on board size and defect location. Such information can be useful in predicting yield from various grades and grade mixes thereby allowing for better management decisions in the rough mill. To obtain a copy of this program, request General Technical Report FPL-38

MEETINGS

March 12-16, 1984--Plywood Manufacturing, Forest Products Department, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon. The objective of this course is to provide basic technical information, up-to-date techniques, and opportunity to learn to persons involved in plywood manufacturing. The program is specifically designed to suit plywood production supervisors, lathe-, veneer dryer-, and gluing foremen, quality control personnel, and middle management. Teaching will be by means of lecture, slide-tape programs, and demonstration.

March 28-31, 1984--46th Intermountain Logging Conference, Ridpath Hotel & Motor Inn, Spokane, Washington. The theme for the conference is "Return to Reality". For more information, contact Intermountain Logging Conference, Inc., P.O. Box 1177, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814, or phone (208)667-8121.

March 31, 1984. Intermountain Saw Filers' Education Association 20th Annual Conference and Banquet. Sheraton Spokane Hotel, North 322, Spokane Falls Court, Spokane, WA 99201. For more information contact George Miller, Missoula Saws, Missoula, Montana 59801, or (406) 721-25-80.

The 28th Annual Rocky Mountain Forest Industries Conference and Equipment Show will be held April 4, 5, and 6, 1984, at the Salt Lake Hilton Hotel in Salt Lake

City, Utah. The theme for the conference is "A Time for Innovation, Efficiency and Cooperation". Sessions to be addressed are "Quality Control and Improved Utilization", "Marketing and Exports", "Harvesting and Managing Timber on Steep Slopes in the Rocky Mountains", and "Product Development and Utilization". The meeting will be co-sponsored by the Forest Products Research Society's Rocky Mountain Section. For more information, contact Program Chairman, David C. Schen, 3100 State Office Building, Salt Lake City, UT 84114, or phone (801)533-5381.

April 30-May 2, 1984--39th Annual Northwest Wood Products Clinic, Red Lion Motor Inn, Spokane, WA. The meeting is designed for sawmill and other wood products manufacturers and features a state of the air equipment show. Session topics are, "Productivity Considerations", "Sawmilling: Cutting and Drying", "New Technology for Structural Panels", and "Improvements for Today's Log Yards". The meeting is jointly co-sponsored by the Inland Empire Forest Products Industries and the Forest Products Research Society. For more information, contact Don Powell, St. Regis Paper Company, Libby, MT, or phone (406)293-4141.

May 29-June 1, 1984--Wood Engineering Seminars, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana. The two seminars offered cover the introduction of a new version of the Purdue Plan Structures Analyzer, PPSA, and presentation of analytic models used to represent real structures. For fee and enrollment information contact Gene Broecker, Continuing Education, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana 47907.

NEW EQUIPMENT

Cable Logging System available from Gantner. An economical, easily transportable sky-line able to clear timber from normally inaccessible terrain is available from Gantner, an Austrian firm.

The Gantner HSW 150 is a free-standing, fully suspendable cable that coils neatly into a drum. Propelled by a sled winch, it is designed to maneuver in areas where road clearing and conventional lumber hauling now make small timber harvesting costs prohibitive. The HSW 150 cable spans up to 7,250 feet, pulling a payload of 15,000 pounds at a line speed of 2,400 feet/minute. Operations can begin with low investment capital, and can be maintained by a minimal crew. In addition, the Gantner offers maximum protection to forest and soil.

For more information about Gantner forestry equipment, write the Austrian Trade Commission, 3440 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 515, Los Angeles, CA 90010.

FOR SALE: SERVICES & EQUIPMENT

Timber Sale Contractor, Forest Consultant, Sawmill Products, Timber Cruising, House Logs, Saw Logs, Log Scaling, Poles. Contact Steve Higgins, Forester: Log Locator, 205 Colorado Avenue, Whitefish, MT 59937, or phone (406)862-6375.

One (1) used Armstrong No. 2 left hand grinder; one (1) 54 inch, 6-7 gauge, 3½ pattern circle saw; one (1) used 310 C-Armstrong Streacher Roller. New Model 240 MAKITA Planer. The planer surfaces two sides, opening width 15-5/8", opening depth 7-5/8", feed speed 29.5 FPM, RPM-6500, 2 Hp single phase, 110 volt, weight 254 lbs. Retails for $1,730, sale price $1,250. Hand-held power MAKITA Planer, Model 1900 BW, 3¼ width. Excellent for peeling house logs. Regular price $143, sale price $114. For more information on the above

equipment, contact Bob at Missoula Saws, Inc., 2301 Grant Street, Missoula, MT 59801, or phone 721-2580, outside Montana, call toll free 1-800-548-2484.

Rolies Harvester Studmill. 6 saws, hydrolic feedworks, clutch PTO, powered by 6-cylinder Allis Chalmer diesel engine. For more information, contact Ron Buck, Deerlodge Wood Products, 802 College, Deer Lodge, MT 59722, or phone (406)846-3009.

Three (3) brand new pneumatic chainsaws, all with 28" bars. Model: 6-P Remington Chainsaw; Motor type: 4-vane rotary; 3 to 1 gear reduction; Max. air consumption at load: 90 CFM; Recommended air pressure at chainsaw: 90 PSI; Free speed 90 PSI: 10,000 RPM; Full load speed: 1,400 RPM; Free chain speed 90 PSI: 1,900 RPM. Price: $1,000 each plus freight. Contact Tony Ingoglia, P.O. Box 310, Peach Springs, Arizona, or phone (602)769-2267.

1975 T-D-8E. 6-way blade, winch, brush blade. Low hours, very good condition. $19,000. Rustics of Lindbergh Lake, (406)754-2222.

Michigan Knife Company not only manufatures chippper, hog, planer and other knives for the wood products industry along with Disston-Philbrick knives, but a complete line of knife grinders for sharpening knives as well. Our grinders are available in many models and sizes starting with our 20" hand operated unit up to our fully automatic 84" machine. We also have our new cutterhead grinder for sharpening milled-to-pattern knives without removing the knives from the cutterhead. In addition, we have a good selection of used grinders that have been taken in on trade. If interested, please phone collect (616)-796-4858 and ask for Cindy, Terry or Bob or write to Michigan Knife Company, 120 Pere Marquette St., Big Rapids, MI 49307 and request a free catalog and used machinery list.

WOOD SHOP FOR SALE: Variety woodworking business for sale, both flatwork, mouldings and turnings. Sales are $450,000; net $45,000. 120,000 feet of land, 80,000 feet of building and warehouse. Dry kiln and automatic Laidig feed for heating. We have been in business 90 years, good management and skilled workers. We are located in a small resort town in Central Wisconsin; good fishing, hunting and golfing. Price is $450,000 plus inventory. Excellent owner financing. Please write to P.O. Box 585, Portage, SI. 53901.

Stationary Circle Sawmill 40 MBF per shift Hydraulic Dogs, Hydraulic Log Turner, Live Log Deck, Verticle Arbor Edger, Mill currently not operating. For more information, contact Gary Murphy (406) 728-5131, RFD #2, Browns Gulch, Butte, Montana 59701.

FOR SALE: FOREST PRODUCTS

We can supply truckloads or carloads of prefabricated and/or any preservative treated forest products such as Cross Ties, new or used; Scaffolding, Construction Mats; Poles; Piling; and, .40 CCA GM#2 Southern Yellow Pine Decking and Framing LP-22 Outdoor Lumber, etc. Contact us for your difficult or unusual specifications. Call or write Germain Timber Co., P.O. Box 7836, Pittsburgh, PA 15215, or phone (412)782-3240.

Fir and Larch, 8 foot 2x4's stud grade, random length 2x4's and 2x6's, 4x4's and 6x6's. Phone 273-6452 or 273-0778

WANTED

Dead sawlogs, fir and larch, minimum top diameter 6 inches. Phone 273-6452 or 273-0778.

If you wish to advertise a forest product or a piece of wood-processing machinery in this bulletin complete the form below. No charge is made for this service. If you wish to rerun an item, a written request must be submitted before the next issue.

NAME OF PERSON OR FIRM: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

ZIP CODE: _____ PHONE: _____

Type or print your advertisement in the space below, detach and return to:

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